

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A threat launch detection system, comprising:

at least one temporal threat detector, each temporal threat detector including a single sensing element operable to sense radiation from various types of short-burn threats that occur within a field of view of the temporal threat detector and to generate a detection signal in response to the sensed radiation; and

a processing circuit coupled to each temporal threat detector and operable to analyze the detection signal from each temporal threat detector as a function of time to detect the occurrence of a short-burn threat within the field of view of any of the temporal threat detectors.

2. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 1 wherein each temporal threat detector comprises a prism-coupled compound parabolic concentrator.

3. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 2 wherein the prism coupled compound parabolic concentrator includes a prism formed from a material selected from the group consisting of silicon, germanium, plastic, and high-index of refraction glass.

4. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 2 wherein the prism-coupled compound parabolic concentrator has a field of view of approximately ninety degrees.

5. (Previously Presented) The threat launch detection system of claim 1 wherein each temporal threat detector comprises:

optics operable to receive incident radiation and to focus this radiation in a focal plane;

a single sensor element positioned relative to the optics to receive radiation passing through the optics; and

a sensor array positioned in the focal plane to receive focused radiation from the optics.

6. (Previously Presented) The threat launch detection system of claim 5 wherein the single sensor element is positioned adjoining the sensor array between the sensor array and the optics.

7. (Currently Amended) The threat launch detection system of claim 5 wherein the single element-sensor element is positioned between the sensor array and the optics at a distance that is less than a distance of the focal plane from the optics.

8. (Currently Amended) The threat launch detection system of claim 1 wherein the processing circuit includes a temporal template for each short-burn threat to be detected, and wherein the processing circuit compares each detection signal to each of the temporal templates and determines a short-burn threat exists when the detection signal approximately matches one of the temporal templates.

9. (Previously Presented) A threat launch detection system, comprising:

a plurality of temporal threat detectors, each temporal threat detector including a single sensing element operable to sense radiation from various types of

short-burn threats that occur within a field of view of the detector and to generate a detection signal in response to the sensed radiation;

a plurality of bias and amplification circuits, each bias and amplification circuit coupled to a corresponding temporal threat detector and operable to bias and amplify the corresponding detection signal to develop a conditioned detection signal;

a multiplexing analog-to-digital converter coupled to each of the bias and amplification circuits to receive the corresponding conditioned detection signal, the converter operable to sequentially digitize each of the conditioned detection signals;

a plurality of sensor arrays, each sensor array operable to capture images of threats within a field of view of the array;

a fusion processing circuit coupled to the analog-to-digital converter and the sensor arrays, the fusion processing circuit analyzing the detection signals from each temporal threat detector as a function of time to detect the occurrence of a short-burn threat within a field of view of any of the temporal threat detectors and thereafter operable to process images from one or more of the sensor arrays having fields of view that overlap the field of view of the temporal threat detector that sensed the short-burn threat, the fusion processing circuit processing the images to more precisely identify a location of the detected threat; and

a countermeasure controller coupled to the fusion processing circuit, the controller operable to implement countermeasures in response to the location and type of detected threat.

10. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 9 wherein the fusion processing circuit is further operable in response to detecting a short-burn threat to assign a timestamp, type indicator, and identifier to the detected threat.

11. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 10 wherein the fusion processing circuit is operable to process images from one or more of the

sensor arrays by comparing two images from the appropriate sensor array that were captured nearest in time to the timestamp parameter assigned to the detected threat.

12. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 9 wherein each temporal threat detector comprises a prism-coupled compound parabolic concentrator.

13. (Original) The threat launch detection system of claim 12 wherein the prism-coupled compound parabolic concentrator includes a prism formed from a material selected from the group consisting of silicon, germanium, plastic, and high-index of refraction glass.

14. (Previously Presented) The threat launch detection system of claim 9,

wherein each temporal threat detector comprises:

optics operable to receive incident radiation and to focus this radiation in a focal plane;

a single sensor element positioned relative to the optics to receive radiation passing through the optics;

one of the sensor arrays positioned in the focal plane to receive focused radiation from the optics; and

wherein the fusion processing circuit further includes a staring array processor for processing the images captured from the sensor arrays.

15. (Currently Amended) The threat launch detection system of claim 14 wherein the single element-sensor element is positioned either adjoining the sensor array between the sensor array and the optics or between the sensor array and the optics at a distance that is less than a distance of the focal plane from the optics.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting and indicating detection of short-burn threats, the method comprising:

sensing radiation within a field of view;

generating a single detection signal in response to the sensed radiation;

analyzing the single detection signal as a function of time;

detecting from the analysis whether the single detection signal indicates a short-burn threat has occurred within the field of view; and

wherein analyzing the single detection signal as a function of time comprises:

comparing the single detection signal to a plurality of temporal templates, each temporal template being associated with a particular type of short-burn threat; threat; and

determining a short-burn threat exists when the single detection signal approximately matches one of the temporal templates; and

generating a signal indicating a short-burn threat exists, the signal including parameters assigned to the short-burn threat to facilitate subsequent identification of a more precise location of the short-burn threat.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting and identifying the location of short-burn threats, comprising:

sensing radiation within a field of view;

generating a single detection signal in response to the sensed radiation;

analyzing the single detection signal as a function of time;

detecting from the analysis whether the single detection signal indicates a short-burn threat has occurred exists within the field of view;

capturing images of the field of view being sensed; and

when it is determined detected that a short-burn threat exists, analyzing the captured images to identify more specifically a location of the short-burn threat.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising taking countermeasures in response to detecting a short-burn threat.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the types of short-burn threats detecting include tank shells and rocket-propelled grenades.

21. (Previously Presented) The threat launch detection system of claim 1 further comprising an artillery fire finder radar, wherein the threat launch detection system is operable to eliminate transmission by the fire finder radar until incoming fire is detected.

22. (Currently Amended) The threat launch detection system of claim 21 wherein the system is further operable to utilize the detected short-burn threat is utilized to reduce the search space of the fire finder radar.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising when it is determined that a short-burn threat exists, activating a fire finder radar system.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising when it is determined that a short-burn threat exists, activating a fire finder radar system.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting short-burn threats, comprising:

sensing radiation within a field of view;

generating a single detection signal in response to the sensed radiation;

analyzing the single detection signal as a function of time;

detecting from the analysis whether the single detection signal indicates a short-burn threat has occurred within the field of view; view; and

wherein analyzing the single detection signal as a function of time comprises:

comparing the single detection signal to a plurality of temporal features, with unique combinations of temporal features comprising a temporal template being associated with a particular type of short-burn threat; and

determining a short-burn threat exists when the single detection signal approximately matches one of the temporal templates; and

generating a signal indicating a short-burn threat exists.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein in the associated parameters comprise:

a timestamp indicating when the short-burn threat started;

a type indicator indicating the type of short-burn threat detected; and

an identifier indicating the field of view in which the short-burn threat exists.